

We claim:

1. Use of a selective alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of physical dependence and/or one or more withdrawal symptoms caused by the discontinuation of the use of at least one psychostimulant agent in a mammal.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1, which comprises treating the mammal for existing dependence and/or one or more existing withdrawal symptoms.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1, which comprises treating the mammal to prevent the development of dependence and/or one or more withdrawal symptoms.

4. The use as claimed in claim 1, which comprises discontinuing the use of the at least one psychostimulant upon administration of the at least one alpha2-adrenoceptor.

5. The use as claimed in claim 1, which comprises gradually reducing the use of the at least one psychostimulant ultimately to discontinuation while administering the at least one alpha2-adrenoceptor.

6. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.

7. The use as claimed in claim 1, which comprises treating one or more withdrawal symptoms, wherein at least one withdrawal symptom is depression, anxiety, hyperphagia, continued sleepiness, anhedonia, sexual dysfunction, dysphoria, lethargy, general fatigue, shivering, shaking, restlessness, headache, inability to concentrate, decreased sensory sensitivity or apathy.

8. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one psychostimulant agent is amphetamine, dextroamphetamine, methamphetamine or other β -phenylisopropylamine derivative.

9. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one psychostimulant agent is nicotine, cocaine, ecstasy, phencyclidine, phenmetrazine, methylphenidate, diethylpropion, pemoline, mazindol, (-) cathione or fenfluramine.

10. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist is atipamezole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist is efaroxan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5 12. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist is 4-(2-ethyl-5-fluoro-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-1H-imidazole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof..

13. The use as claimed in claim 1, which comprises further administering one or more antidepressants, antipsychotics or anxiolytic agents.

10 14. The use of a selective alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention of relapse after withdrawal from the use of at least one psychostimulant agent in a mammal.

15 15. The use of a selective alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of physical dependence and/or one or more withdrawal symptoms caused by the discontinuation of the use of at least one compound that enhances dopamine release and/or inhibits dopamine uptake from the synaptic cleft in the central nervous system.